

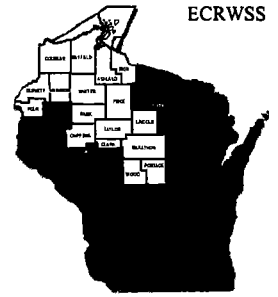
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business



David E. Bonior
M.C.

Presorted Standard
ECRWSS



Wisconsin's 7th District

**Postal Patron — Local
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Wisconsin**

AMERICA STANDS UNITED

Dear Friends,

None of us will ever forget September 11, 2001. Like December 7, 1941, it is a day that will live in infamy. The pain we feel as a nation is at times too much to bear. But painful as it is, we have overcome worse - two world wars, the Civil War, the burning of the Capitol, the War of 1812 and other wars, and we will overcome this!

In responding to this crisis there will be honest differences in opinion within the White House itself and between the White House and Congress. But that is not a problem. The strength of America has always been that we can work out those differences and move forward. It is important for you to know as we work through this challenge that we are not Democrats or Republicans. We are all in this together.

In the months ahead there will be hard choices. The hardest thing for the President will be to know what to do, and those choices will be no less difficult for the Congress. As we work through those choices the American people need to understand not just what their leaders are doing but why.

Immediately after the vicious attack of last Tuesday the President asked Congress to pass an emergency response package. That package changed quickly as we worked through the problem. But within two days, the Congress faced and dealt with a whole series of legitimate concerns and produced a \$40 billion dollar package that passed with the unanimous support of the House and Senate.

Congressman Bill Young of Florida is the top Republican on the Appropriations Committee which produced that legislation, and I am the top ranking Democrat. We belong to different parties but we function as bipartisan partners and will continue to do so. So that you can have a better understanding of what we did and why we did it I thought it might be good for you to see the speeches that Congressman Young and I gave on the House Floor as we shepherded this bill through Congress. Please be assured that we will try to respond to this crisis in a rapid and effective way while never forgetting our Constitutional obligations to protect the taxpayers' money and the public interest.

Immediately after the attack I reviewed the damage at the Pentagon with the General in charge of reconstruction, and Congressman Young and I yesterday jointly viewed the horrific scenes in New York. The damage that I saw was appalling and heartbreaking, but we also saw policemen, fireman and ordinary citizens who were working despite the effects of fatigue, terror and loss because that is all that any of us can do. I will try to keep you informed as best I can during these coming months. At this time of crisis we need both strength and wisdom. Let us pray to God that we find it.

Sincerely,

David E. Bonior



Congressman Bill Young and I reviewed the damage in New York on Wednesday.



Arlington, VA, September 12, 2001 — FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) technical teams begin the process of evaluating how to secure the crash site at the Pentagon. This will create a safer environment for rescue workers.

Photo by Jocelyn Augustino/ FEMA News Photo



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

Floor Statement of C.W. Bill Young Emergency Supplemental Appropriations September 14, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, America is one Nation united under God today more than any time since December 7, 1941, when we were attacked at Pearl Harbor. Americans are normally very busy people, staying focused on those matters of concern to ourselves and to our families. Today our country's focus is on our fellow Americans who lost their lives in the despicable terrorist attack on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, and also on their families who mourn them. We seek God's blessing of comfort for them.

Today, Mr. Speaker, America has officially set aside a time for national mourning. We will also focus on rebuilding what terrorists destroyed. Today we focus on not only seeking out those who brought this attack to our land, but to deal with those who might be planning other sneak attacks on America or the rest of the civilized world. Americans will not live in fear, and we will not allow attacks on our people or our places.

With the action of the United States Congress today, the world will know that our people and we as their representatives in Congress are more united behind our President as he leads this great Nation under God than most Americans alive today have ever witnessed. We absorbed the attacks in Beirut when we lost brave Marines. We absorbed the attack at Khobar Towers when we lost brave members of our Air Force deployed to that part of the world. We absorbed the embassy attacks in Africa with some retaliation. We had the attack on the USS *Cole* where members of our Navy were killed or seriously injured, and we will rebuild the *Cole* as a monument to advise the world that we will not accept these attacks on our people.

When the attacks came on Tuesday of this week, we had several options. We could have selected to wait, to see if this was another isolated act of terrorism, or we could choose to fight back, to do whatever is necessary to protect our Nation, to protect our families, and to preserve our freedoms and our way of life. Let there be no doubt. Our choice, the choice of President George Bush, the choice of the United States Congress, and the choice of the

Floor Statement of U.S. Representative David Obey Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 2888) September 14, 2001

Mr. OBEY of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a response to the worst attack on U.S. soil in the history of our republic. That attack requires a response which is focused, strong, mature, and lasting. That attack requires a response that is based on solid unity, and that unity must be based upon the recognition of and the overcoming of our differences, not in the ignoring or the papering over of our differences. That is the only way to provide true unity over the long haul.

Very frankly, twice in the last 2 days I was concerned that that unity would not come about. This morning I can tell every Member of this House without question that those divisions have been overcome during negotiations on this bill, and I think it is important that some Members who have some misgivings understand the history of this bill.

During negotiations on this bill, money has never been an object. Make no mistake about it, this committee, this body, will provide whatever resources are needed to respond to this challenge, not just today, not just tomorrow, but for as long as it takes; but it is crucial in our rush to a response that we preserve and protect the institutional arrangements that have been the very foundation of our liberty since the Constitution was first written.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress has essentially only two powers that mean anything in the scheme of things. The first is the War Power; the second is the power of the purse. Very frankly, I am sad to say because of the nature of the times that we live in, the nature of technology and our own history over the last 30 years, the Congress' power to determine when we go to war has substantially eroded. Today, except in the most extraordinary circumstances, it is, frankly, the President who decides whether we will pull the trigger. But that means that Congress has a double obligation under the oath that we all took to maintain the power of the purse. And we do not do that for turf reasons; we do it because that is the fundamental power that Congress has to preserve liberty for every American.

Let me give some practical examples. These may seem mundane, but they go to the core of the relationship between the branches of government.

The World Trade Center in New York: I have no idea how that is going to finally be rebuilt, but at some point I think it is safe to say there may be a question about

(Congressman Young's Statement, continued)

great people of a great Nation is to fight back. The world will be impressed by our response as we mobilize for this fight.

As we present this bill today, Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker of the House for all of the assistance and wisdom and guidance the gentleman from Illinois gave us as we produced this bill. This was not an easy bill to decide how best to respond in a constitutional way. I thank the leaders of the Senate who worked so diligently with us in order to write the bill that we will present here this morning, and I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the Ranking Member of the Committee on Appropriations. We debated, argued our differences, and worked together as Americans to come up with the right solution. Throughout, the gentleman from Wisconsin was a pillar of strength, a giant; and I want to say I appreciate the efforts the gentleman from Wisconsin made to make this happen. I thank the members of our staff who stayed with us through the day and the night in order to present this bill and make it a good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our friends and allies around the world who have come to our aid and assistance, if nothing more than with their words and demonstrations of support. That is a strong message for us and to the rest of the world, and especially to the terrorists in the world, that we are a united people against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, the bill that we present today, H.R. 2888, is an emergency supplemental appropriations bill that basically provides \$40 billion to be available as needed by the President, and as agreed to by the Congress, in order to mobilize this Nation to fight this fight, to eliminate the threat of terrorism from the United States and from the civilized world.

We are going to move this bill quickly today, and we are going to have this mobilization underway. I think that the world will be impressed, and I believe that fear should be in the hearts of the terrorists because our people will not live in fear. We will not allow that to happen.



Congressman Bill Young and I saw the scope of both the devastation and the rescue and recovery effort when we visited New York on Wednesday.

(Congressman Obey's Statement, continued)

whether the Federal Government plays a role in funding that. I do not know what the outcome of that will be, but I do know that Congress as an institution has a right to be involved in those decisions. This is not a decision that can be made by just one branch of government unilaterally.

The subway damage in New York: Decisions about the shape and nature of Federal involvement in repairing the subway must be made on a collaborative basis between the two branches of government.

Public safety at airports: That is our first line of defense against terrorism and that failed this week. We are going to have major decisions made about how safety at airports is upgraded. The Congress must be able to take advantage of the expertise that people in this body have, people like the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), and others who know a great deal about this. That expertise can be brought to bear only by congressional participation in those decisions. These are just some fairly mundane examples, but they are important in the long-term scheme of things.

The first package that was presented to us was, frankly, a blank check; and to the credit of the people involved, that approach was rejected. This bill provides unprecedented grants of authority to the President, but it does retain reasonable congressional ability to make its own judgments about how this money ought to be spent, and I want to describe what it does.

This bill is a down payment on the efforts of this country to undertake to find and punish those who committed this terrible act and those who supported them, and it is a down payment on providing the resources necessary to rebuild this Nation. It provides an initial payment of \$40 billion to help the victims repair the damage, upgrade our security, and begin the military preparations to find and destroy the perpetrators of these deplorable and despicable acts. \$10 billion will be available immediately upon the signature of the President and will be spent in areas of government that he deems appropriate under consultation with the Congress.

A second \$10 billion will become available after he has published his plans for its use. The Congress will then have 15 days to review those plans, and I fully expect that there will be a respectful relationship between the two branches of government in ironing out any misgivings that Congress might have with respect to any of those plans.

Next, an additional \$20 billion will be spent based upon the submission of a Presidential budget request and an action by the Congress in the regular appropriations bills that we will be sending to the President in the weeks ahead. Half of this money will be for responding to domestic cleanup, reconstruction, and humanitarian needs. The remainder will be for tightening security in military operations.

(Continued on Back)

(Congressman Obey's Statement, continued)

In addition, Congress will be considering defense appropriations bills within the next few weeks that will contain in excess of \$340 billion as well as domestic appropriations which will contain numerous additional commitments to improving and enhancing security.

Mr. Speaker, we are in day three of a New World. As a past President indicated a long time ago, we are entering into a "long twilight struggle" against terrorism. This is going to be a very nasty enterprise. Our country, for its entire history, has been shielded by two oceans from this kind of threat. Today with modern technology, with modern transportation, it is not only the economy that is global, we also have a global capability of people to take out their hatred on those that they do not like.

There is no question America paid a price for world leadership. If it proves to be that the people who perpetrated this act are those we suspect, it will demonstrate that we have also paid a price for the world's failure to find a resolution to the Middle East problems. We have also paid a price for a long period of under-funding a number of critical public service items, including airport security.

This is going to be a long fight. We need to be able to stick together for the duration. That means we are going to have to be able to trust each other implicitly. We are going to have to be able to trust each other's word. And we are going to have to have a respectful relationship between the two branches of government. Because it is very easy, once the going gets tough on an issue like this, for people to bail out. The only thing that will keep us together is conscience and unity built on honest agreement.

I want to thank a few people. I want to thank Senator Byrd, who in my view was fierce in defense of the institutional prerogatives that we must hold dear. These prerogatives are important, not because they make us powerful but because they are the only tools that enable us to protect the liberty of each and every American that we represent. I want to thank Senator Stevens for overcoming his differences and working with all of us. I want to thank Chairman Young. Bill Young and I have a long relationship. We are friends, we are sometimes adversaries, but in all instances we are partners, and we will be partners for a long time to come as we deal with these issues.

I want to thank the Minority Leader, Mr. Gephardt, because he intervened on three separate and crucial occasions in order to convey a seriousness of purpose on both ends of the Avenue that was necessary to overcome our differences. I want to thank our Speaker. Yesterday on at least two occasions he demonstrated what leadership is all about. And I think it is safe to say that, more than almost anyone, he recognized the need for true unity yesterday and he recognized, as I said earlier, that that unity needed to be based upon the overcoming of our differences rather than the papering over of our differences.

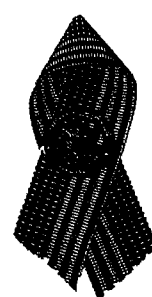
I also do want to thank our staff on both sides of the aisle. Many people sitting here this morning have been working for days on this, but I especially want to single out Scott Lilly, the staff director on our side of the aisle, and Jim Dyer on the Republican side of the aisle. As usual, they have helped us to bridge differences and they have helped us protect the prerogatives and the needs of this institution. And the way they do it on a daily basis is a constant demonstration of the day-to-day actions that constitute true patriotism. I am profound in my admiration for them and all of those who work with them.

I want to say to the people of New York, there is not a district in this country that is more different from New York than mine. But every person in my district today stands as one with the people of New York. They have experienced a tragedy which is unparalleled. Our hearts go out to every single family who has lost anyone.

I want to express our solidarity with those folks at the Pentagon, those folks who work there. They defend our country abroad and at home. Some of them paid the ultimate price and we will not forget.

I want to thank those who were on the various airplanes that crashed who gave us fragmentary information about what happened and, at least on several occasions, obviously engaged in struggles which may have preserved the existence of the very building in which we work today. We owe them a lot. And we owe to each other efforts to build a new relationship and a new sense of comity in this town so that we can, in fact, meet the responsibilities that we were elected to perform.

I urge support for this bill...Mr. Speaker, this is a shattering experience of unprecedented proportion; but I say to every American, we have endured worse. We have gone through two World Wars, Vietnam, Korea, the burning of the Capitol itself during the War of 1812, and the Civil War. I think we need to remember the words of President Lyndon Johnson when he stood at that podium and addressed this Congress on civil rights after the death of Martin Luther King: We Shall Overcome!



September 11, 2001